

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A method for creating at least one electrical pathway in a semiconductor device structure, comprising:
 - providing a semiconductor substrate; and
 - ablating one or more depressions in a surface of the semiconductor substrate to define the at least one electrical pathway.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - depositing an electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate and into the one or more depressions; and
 - planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the semiconductor substrate to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the one or more depressions.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising etching the one or more depressions in the surface of the semiconductor substrate subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the semiconductor substrate comprises providing at least one of a silicon wafer, a silicon on insulator substrate, a silicon on sapphire substrate, an epitaxial layer of silicon on a base semiconductor foundation, a substrate comprising a layer of silicon-germanium, a substrate comprising a layer of germanium, a substrate comprising a layer of gallium arsenide and a substrate comprising a layer of indium phosphide.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing at least one of a metal, a conductive polymer and conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein depositing the at least one of the metal, the conductive polymer and the conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing a metal selected from the group consisting of solder, aluminum, titanium, nickel, iridium, copper, gold, tungsten, silver, platinum, palladium, tantalum, molybdenum and alloys thereof over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein depositing the at least one of the metal, the conductive polymer and the conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing a conductive polymer selected from the group consisting of a metal filled silicone and an isotropically conductive or conductor-filled epoxy over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the semiconductor substrate comprises providing the semiconductor substrate and forming a film over at least a portion of the surface of the semiconductor substrate, and wherein ablating one or more depressions in the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises ablating the one or more depressions at least partially through the film.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
depositing an electrically conductive material over a surface of the film and into the one or more depressions; and
planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the film to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the one or more depressions.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising etching the one or more depressions in the film subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the film.

11. A method for creating at least one conductive element and at least one conductive structure in a semiconductor device structure, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate; and

substantially simultaneously ablating at least one depression in a surface of the semiconductor substrate to define the at least one conductive element and ablating at least one conductive structure precursor in the semiconductor substrate to define the at least one conductive structure.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

depositing an electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate and into the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor; and

planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the semiconductor substrate to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor.

13. The method of claim 16, further comprising etching the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor in the surface of the semiconductor substrate subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein providing the semiconductor substrate comprises providing at least one of a silicon wafer, a silicon on insulator substrate, a silicon on sapphire substrate, an epitaxial layer of silicon on a base semiconductor foundation, a substrate comprising a layer of silicon-germanium, a substrate comprising a layer of germanium, a

substrate comprising a layer of gallium arsenide and a substrate comprising a layer of indium phosphide.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing at least one of a metal, a conductive polymer and conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein depositing the at least one of the metal, the conductive polymer and conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing a metal selected from the group consisting of solder, aluminum, titanium, nickel, iridium, copper, gold, tungsten, silver, platinum, palladium, tantalum, molybdenum and alloys thereof over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein depositing the at least one of the metal, the conductive polymer and conductive nano-particles over the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises depositing a conductive polymer selected from the group consisting of a metal filled silicone and an isotropically conductive or conductor-filled epoxy over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein providing the semiconductor substrate comprises providing the semiconductor substrate and forming a film over at least a portion of the surface of the semiconductor substrate, and wherein ablating at least one depression and at least one conductive structure precursor in the surface of the semiconductor substrate comprises ablating the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor at least partially through the film.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein ablating at least one depression and at least one conductive structure precursor at least partially through the film comprises ablating the at least one conductive structure precursor through the film to expose an active area on the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
depositing an electrically conductive material over a surface of the film and into the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor; and
planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the film to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising etching the at least one depression and the at least one conductive structure precursor subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the film.

22. A method for creating at least one electrical connection through a sidewall of a semiconductor device structure, comprising:
providing a semiconductor substrate; and
ablating one or more depressions in a surface of a sidewall of the semiconductor substrate to define the at least one electrical connection.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
depositing an electrically conductive material over the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate and into the one or more depressions; and
planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the one or more depressions.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising etching the one or more depressions in the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein providing the semiconductor substrate comprises providing the semiconductor substrate and forming a film over at least a portion of the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate, and wherein ablating one or more depressions in the surface of the sidewall of the semiconductor substrate comprises ablating the one or more depressions at least partially through the film.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
depositing an electrically conductive material over a surface of the film and into the one or more depressions; and
planarizing the electrically conductive material at least to the surface of the film to laterally isolate the electrically conductive material in the one or more depressions.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising etching the one or more depressions subsequent to ablating and prior to depositing the electrically conductive material over the surface of the film.